

Leadership Investment: CeFA (Centro de Formación Anglicano)

*“The more reverence we have for the word of God,
the more joy we shall find in it.”*

About CeFA

Located in Ingeniero Juárez, about 550 km from Salta in northern Argentina, CeFA (Centro de Formación Anglicano) serves as the heart of leadership training for indigenous communities within the Diocese of Northern Argentina. Its mission is to equip local people to serve faithfully in their own communities, empowering them for ministry and mission.

Contextual Approach

CeFA's training is deeply rooted in the realities of indigenous life. Many who respond to God's call do so with limited formal education, and Spanish is often a second language. To address these challenges, CeFA carefully adapts its materials, bridging the gap between Spanish and indigenous languages to ensure that every participant can engage fully and understand deeply. Through a combination of theological and practical training, CeFA helps participants serve their communities with a deeper awareness of God's missional calling. The curriculum blends biblical teaching and pastoral care with practical guidance on pressing social challenges, such as drug and alcohol abuse. By addressing both spiritual and social needs, CeFA prepares leaders who are not only grounded in faith but also capable of bringing hope and positive change to their communities.

Strengthening Local Leadership

The training program is designed to strengthen and develop local leadership, supporting indigenous leaders as they engage with God's Word in a profound and transformative way. Equipping a new generation of indigenous leaders has been identified as a key priority for the diocese.

There are 202 Anglican churches in the Diocese of Northern Argentina; 11 in urban areas, with the remaining churches located in the Chaco region. The COVID-19 pandemic claimed the lives of 80 pastors, highlighting the urgent need to invest in leadership development.

Under the leadership of the Revd Daniel Lescano, the church has reviewed the skills and qualities pastors need to serve effectively in rural and culturally distinct communities. This process led to a revitalised programme of contextual theological education, now established as the diocese's top priority alongside re-evangelisation and the empowerment of local communities. As Revd Daniel explains: "Biblical knowledge, understanding, and application are essential for sound teaching. At the same time, widespread drug use and alcoholism create urgent needs that call for relevant pastoral responses firmly anchored in God's Word."

Practical Theological Training

The Diocese of Northern Argentina is committed to providing practical theological training for both clergy and lay people. At CeFA, participants engage with Scripture while addressing pressing cultural challenges, such as addiction, all within the context of their own culture and language. This ministry equips indigenous leaders and lay people from diverse educational backgrounds to serve faithfully in their local churches and communities.

Revd Marcos Humacata plays an active role in theological education at CeFA, he also serves as a tutor in an itinerant seminary, which operates across various regions of the diocese. This approach brings theological education directly to local communities, further extending CeFA's reach and impact.

"There's no substitute for a firsthand encounter with the Word of God."